examinations at every level at least in non-gazetted posts especially for the post of Assistant from amongst Upper Division Clerks to give incentive and remove frustration among its qualified employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Departmental examinations provide a fast track for career advancement for the meritorious officials.

(c) and (d) In so far as the Central Secretariat Service is concerned, at present, no departmental examination is conducted for promotion from the Upper Division Clerks of CSCS for Assistants' grade of CSS and there is no proposal to introduce such an examination. Information regarding other Government officers/services is not centrally maintained.

promotion of SC and ST Employees

2373. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to do away with merit in promotions for SC and ST in Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how does Government plan to further improve the lot of SC and ST Government servants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Government has introduced in Rajya Sabha "The Constitution (Eighty-Eighth Amendment) bill, 1999" on December 23,1999 in order to restore the relaxation of qualifying marks and standards of evaluation in matters of reservation in promotion which were withdrawn vide instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on July 22,1997 in implementation of the Judgement dated October 1, 1996 of the Supreme Court in the case of S. Vinod Kumar *Vs.* Union of India.